

CBS has abused the public trust by broadcasting an obscene and barbaric act during halftime of the Feb. 1, 2004 Super Bowl, and I ask that you hold them fully accountable. All of their denials and apologies are wholly unconvincing. The incident, the forcible removal of a woman's clothes, was a natural conclusion to the content of the music that was being presented. Millions of American families were subjected to an assault on a woman by a man, and I defy anyone who viewed the incident as it unfolded live to defend it as some accident or malfunction, particularly in the context of the content of the performance. Responses to the incident by CBS, MTV and the NFL have been entirely untenable and frankly, insulting to the intelligence of the public. I would further argue that those organizations are guilty of or complicit in child abuse by permitting those images to be broadcast in prime time to an audience that by any reasonable reckoning, had to include minor children.

Please exercise the authority you hold in the name of the public to ensure that CBS, MTV, and the NFL face the full force of all applicable law. Apologies and denials are insufficient. Please enforce serious consequences against these organizations to deter this kind of reprehensible conduct in the future.